AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An image processing device for inspection by image processing of image data acquired from a camera which captures images of at least one object, comprising:

shot number setting means for setting the number of shots of photographing of the object with the camera;

inspection item setting means for setting at least one inspection item in association with individual ones of said shots, the at least one inspection item being selectable to be different for different of said shots;

preliminary inspection means for sequentially inspecting the image data acquired from the camera by image processing each time when the camera captures an image of the object based on the at least one inspection item until the number of shots reaches the value set by the shot number setting means;

collective estimation means for collectively estimating the object on the basis of results of inspection of image data of the individual images after inspection of image data of the image captured by final one of the shots determined by the shot number setting means; and

output means for outputting a result of collective estimation by the collective estimation means.

2. (Currently amended) The image processing means according to claim 1 wherein the preliminary inspection means carries out a predetermined identical inspection upon any of the shots ~~determined beforehand~~.

3. (Currently amended) The image processing means according to claim 1 wherein the preliminary inspection means carries out a plurality of predetermined different kinds of inspection inspects for the respective shots ~~determined beforehand~~.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Original) The image processing means according to claim 1 further comprising a data erasure means for erasing the image data acquired from the camera, results of inspection by the preliminary inspection means and the result of collective estimation after the output means outputs the result of the collective estimation of the object.

6. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising:

an inspection item setting step for setting at least one inspection item in association with individual images of an object captured by a camera, the at least one inspection item being selectable to be different for different of said images;

a preliminary inspection step for acquiring image data from the ~~a~~ camera, carrying out image processing of the acquired image data and executing predetermined items of inspection based on the at least one inspection item each time when the camera captures an image of the ~~an~~ object, and repeating these procedures predetermined times;

a collective inspection step for collectively inspecting the object on the basis of results obtained by a plurality of occurrences of the preliminary inspection step; and

a collective result outputting step for outputting a result obtained in the collective

inspection step.

7. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 6 further comprising a data erasing step for erasing the image data of the object, results of preliminary inspection obtained by a plurality of occurrences of the preliminary inspection step and the result of collective estimation obtained in the collective inspection step after the collective result outputting step.

8. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 7 wherein the images are captured by the camera from a plurality of identical objects contained in a single box, all of the objects are inspected by an identical item of inspection in any event of the preliminary inspection step.

9. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 7 wherein the images are captured by the camera from different portions of a single object, and the different portions of the single object are inspected in a plurality of events of the preliminary inspection step, respectively.

10. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 7 wherein the object is an elongate single object having first and second ends, and the first and second ends of the object are inspected in respective occurrences of the preliminary inspection step.

11. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 10 wherein the

collective inspection step executes inspection of an error of the lengthwise size of the elongate object based upon the inspection of the first end second ends thereof in the preliminary inspection step.